

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-20 AGR-20 DRC-01

(ISO) W

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R 030900Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7712

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

UNCLAS NIAMEY 1338

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON NG

SUBJECT: SMC WARNS MERCHANTS AND SETS OFFICIAL PRICES
FOR CEREALS

1. LT. COL. KOUNTCHE WARNED MERCHANTS APRIL 27 THAT DEFIANCE OF GOVERNMENT POLICY AND EDICTS WILL NO LONGER BE TOLERATED. KOUNTCHE TOLD SEVERAL HUNDRED MERCHANTS GATHERED IN FORMER NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THAT ALTHOUGH NEW GOVERNMENT HAD OPTED FOR LIBERAL ECONOMY, IT WOULD NOT ALLOW LIBERALISM TO SLIDE INTO RUINOUS, ANACHRONISTIC MERCANTILISM. EXHORTING MERCHANTS TO REINVEST IN NIGER, COL. KOUNTCHE SAID THAT DUE TO MINERAL RESOURCES NIGER COULD SOON HAVE ECONOMIC BOOM AND FUTURE WOULD BELONG TO THOSE WHO TAKE ECONOMIC RISKS TODAY. IN CONCLUSION KOUNTCHE WARNED MERCHANTS OF SANCTIONS IF THEY ABETTED CORRUPT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BY GIVING BRIBES AND FALSIFYING DOCUMENTS.

2. MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, CAPT. BOULAMA MANGA, HELD FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH MERCHANTS APRIL 28 IN WHICH HE ANNOUNCED OFFICIAL PRICES FOR CEREALS. NATIONAL CEREALS OFFICE (OPVN) WILL SELL SORGHUM IMPORTED
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FROM THE U.S. AT 13 FRANCS CFA PER KOLO, A DROP

OF 7 FRANCS FROM OLD PRICE. THE OPVN PRICE FOR
MILLET, THE CEREAL PREFERRED BY MOST NIGERIENS,
HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AT 35 FRANCS PER KILO. IN
ADDITION, FOR THE FIRST TIME, OFFICIAL CEILING
PRICES HAVE BEEN SET FOR GRAIN SOLD BY LOCAL MERCHANTS.
MILLET, WHICH PREVIOUSLY HAD BEEN AS HIGH AS 50 FRANCS
PER KILO, CANNOT BE SOLD FOR MORE THAN 40 FRANCS PER
KILO; RICE CORN AND MANIOC FLOUR WILL BE 70, 40 AND
55 FRANCS RESPECTIVELY. IN ANNOUNCING NEW PRICES,
BOULAMA MANGA ASSURED MERCHANTS THAT CUSTOMS CHARGES
WOULD NO LONGER BE LEVIED ON CEREALS AND WARNED THEM
THAT VIOLATORS OF NEW PRICE STRUCTURE WOULD BE
PUNISHED.BUCHE

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Message Attributes

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